

24.(currently amended) A method of controlling a flow of steam and condensate utilizing a condensate trap comprising a vortex chamber, an inlet and a single outlet, the inlet being disposed to admit fluid into the chamber in a manner to promote a rotational flow of the fluid in the chamber about a longitudinal axis of the chamber, and the outlet comprising an escape aperture at an axial end of the chamber in which method the flow of steam and condensate is directed into the vortex chamber in a direction so as to create a vortex within the chamber, the vortex having a low pressure region situated adjacent the escape aperture.

25. (cancelled)

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments are made to eliminate multiple dependencies in the claims (to reduce filing fees), and to make the claims conform to the format of U.S. practice. None of these amendments is related to the patentability of the claims.

Claim 1 is an original claim.

Claim 2 is an original claim.

Claim 3 is amended to eliminate the multiple dependency.

Claim 4 is amended to eliminate the multiple dependency.

Claim 5 is an original claim.

Claim 6 is amended to eliminate the multiple dependency.

Claim 7 is amended to eliminate the multiple dependency.

Claim 8 is amended to eliminate the multiple dependency.

Claim 9 is amended to eliminate the multiple dependency.

Claim 10 is an original claim.

Claim 11 is an original claim.

Claim 12 is an original claim.

Claim 13 is amended to eliminate the multiple dependency.

Claim 14 is amended to eliminate the multiple dependency.

Claim 15 is an original claim.

Claim 16 is amended to eliminate the multiple dependency.

Claim 17 is an original claim.

Claim 18 is amended to eliminate the multiple dependency.

Claim 19 is an original claim.

Claim 20 is amended to eliminate the multiple dependency.

Claim 21 is amended to eliminate the multiple dependency.

Claim 22 is cancelled.

Claim 23 is amended to more properly describe the invention.

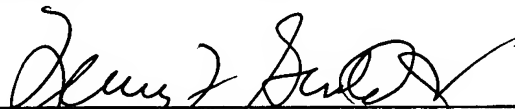
Claim 24 is amended to more properly describe the invention.

Claim 25 is cancelled.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Early notification to that effect is respectfully requested.

The Assistant Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any excess payment that may be associated with this communication to deposit account **04-1679**.

Respectfully submitted,



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Docket No. D4916-0007